Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-27 (cancelled)

Claim 28 (new): A semisolid ophthalmic composition comprising:

1) an ophthalmic drug;

2) an ointment base; and

3) an agent for dispersing and/or dissolving said drug in the ointment base, selected from a poly(ethylene-glycol), a polyethoxylated castor oil, an alcohol having 12-20 carbon atoms and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (new): The composition according to Claim 28, wherein the ointment base comprises:

(a) a natural wax;

(b) a petroleum wax;

(c) a hydrocarbon; or

(d) a combination of two or more of such components.

Claim 30 (new): The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the natural wax is selected from white bees wax, yellow bees wax, a carnauba wax, a wool wax (wool fat), a purified lanolin and an anhydrous lanolin, the petroleum wax is selected from a hard paraffin and a microcrystalline wax, and the hydrocarbon is selected from a liquid paraffin, a white soft paraffin, a yellow soft paraffin, a white petrolatum and a yellow petrolatum.

Claim 31 (new): The composition according to Claim 29, wherein the ointment base comprises a combination of:

(a) a natural wax; and

(c) a hydrocarbon.

Claim 32 (new): The composition according to Claim 31, wherein the composition further comprises a liquid paraffin.

Claim 33 (new): The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the natural wax is a wool wax (wool fat) and the hydrocarbon is a soft paraffin or a petrolatum.

Claim 34 (new): The composition according to Claim 33, wherein the ointment base comprises:

(a) 5-17 parts by weight of wool fat;

(c1) 50-65 parts by weight of white petrolatum; and

(c2) 20-35 parts by weight of liquid paraffin.

Claim 35 (new): The composition according to Claim 28, wherein the agent for dispersing and/or dissolving the drug in the ointment base is selected from a poly(ethylene-glycol), a polyethoxylated castor oil and a mixture thereof.

Claim 36 (new): The composition according to Claim 35, wherein the agent for dispersing and/or dissolving the drug in the ointment base is a mixture of a poly(ethylene-glycol) and a polyethoxylated castor oil.

Claim 37 (new): The composition according to Claim 35, wherein the poly(ethylene-glycol) has the formula $H-(OCH_2-CH_2)_nOH$, wherein n is a number from about 6 to about 22.

Claim 38 (new): The composition according to Claim 35, wherein n is a number from about 6 to about 13.

Claim 39 (new): The composition according to Claim 35, wherein n is a number from about 8.5 to about 9.

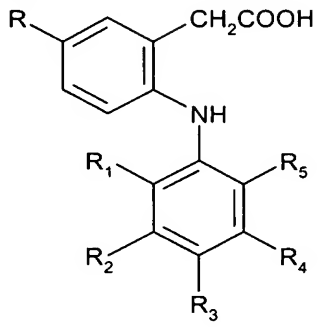
Claim 40 (new): The composition according to Claim 35, wherein the polyethoxylated castor oil has a molecular weight (by steam osmometry) of about 1630, a saponification no. from about 65 to about 70, an acid no. of about 2, an iodine no. from 28 to about 32 and a n_D^{25} of about 1.471.

Claim 41 (new): The composition according to Claim 40, wherein the polyethoxylated castor oil is Cremophor® EL.

Claim 42 (new): The composition according to Claim 28, wherein the agent for dispersing and/or dissolving the ophthalmic drug in the ointment base is used in amounts of 1-20% by weight of the composition.

Claim 43 (new): The composition according to Claim 28, wherein the ophthalmic drug is selected from:

1) a COX-2 inhibitor of the formula



wherein

R is methyl or ethyl;

R_1 is chloro or fluoro;

R_2 is hydrogen or fluoro;

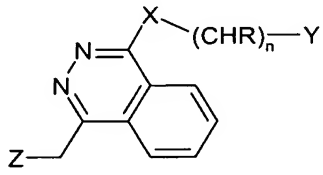
R_3 is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy or hydroxy;

R_4 is hydrogen or fluoro; and

R_5 is chloro, fluoro, trifluoromethyl or methyl,

an ophthalmically acceptable salt thereof; or an ophthalmically acceptable prodrug ester thereof;

2) a compound of the formula



wherein

n is 0-2;

R is H or lower alkyl;

X is imino, oxa or thia;

Y is aryl; and

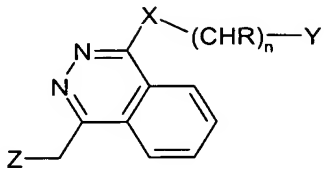
Z is unsubstituted or substituted pyridyl;

or an *N*-oxide of the defined compound, wherein one or more *N* atoms carry an oxygen atom, or an ophthalmically acceptable salt thereof;

3) an ascomycin; or

4) a staurosporine derivative.

Claim 44 (new): The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the compound of the following formula



wherein

n is 0-2;

R is H or lower alkyl;

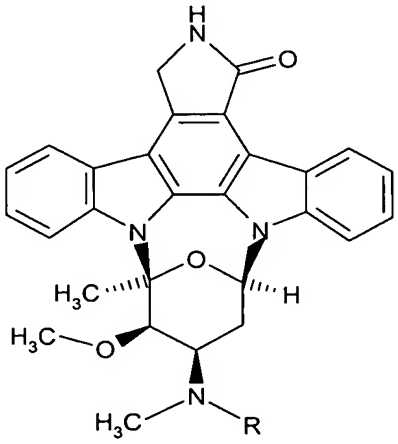
X is imino, oxa or thia;

Y is aryl; and

Z is unsubstituted or substituted pyridyl,

or an *N*-oxide of the defined compound, wherein one or more *N* atoms carry an oxygen atom, is 1-(3-chloroaniline)-4-(4-pyridylmethyl)phthalazine.

Claim 45 (new): The composition according to Claim 43, wherein the staurosporine derivative is of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R is a hydrocarbyl radical or an acyl radical;

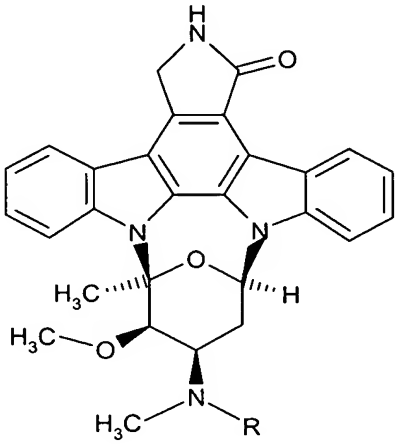
or an ophthalmically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 46 (new): The composition according to Claim 45, wherein R is benzoyl.

Claim 47 (new): The composition according to Claim 28, further comprising either a preservative, an antioxidant or combinations thereof.

Claim 48 (new): The composition according to Claim 47, comprising:

1) an ophthalmic drug, wherein the ophthalmic drug is a staurosporine derivative of formula (I)



(I)

wherein R is benzoyl;

2) an ointment base comprising a combination of

a) a wool wax (wool fat); and

b) a white petrolatum, in combination with a liquid paraffin;

3) an agent for dispersing and/or dissolving the drug in the ointment base selected from a poly(ethylene-glycol) and a mixture of a poly(ethylene-glycol) and a polyethoxylated castor oil; and optionally

4) a preservative; and

5) an antioxidant.

Claim 49 (new): The composition according to Claim 48, comprising:

1) 0.1-4 of a staurosporine derivative of formula (I), wherein R is benzoyl;

2) an ointment base, essentially consisting of a combination of:

(a) 5-17% of wool fat;

(c1) 50-65% of white petrolatum; and

(c2) 20-35 percent of liquid paraffin;

3) 1-10% of an agent for dispersing and/or dissolving the drug in the ointment base essentially consisting of a poly(ethylene-glycol), optionally in combination with a polyethoxylated castor oil; and

4) 0.01-2% of a preservative;

5) 0.01-2% of an antioxidant,

wherein all percentages relate to the total weight of the components 1) to 5).

Claim 50 (new): A method for the treatment and/or prevention of human ocular neovascular diseases comprising topically administering a composition comprising a staurosporine derivative according to Claim 45 to the ocular surface.

Claim 51 (new): The method according to Claim 50, wherein the ocular neovascular diseases are selected from age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema or proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Claim 52 (new): A method for treating an inflammatory disease comprising topically administering a composition comprising ascomycin according to Claim 45 to the skin of a patient in need thereof.

Claim 53 (new): The method of Claim 52, wherein the inflammatory disease is blepharitis.